

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 181205Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8216

SECRET SAIGON 18173

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP VS

SUBJECT: MEDICAL TREATMENT AT WALTER REED FOR RVN VICE

PRESIDENT HUONG

1. PRESIDENT THIEU HAS ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT
NIXON HIS REQUEST FOR A PARTICULAR FAVOR. HE SAID THAT THE
HEALTH OF THE VICE PRESIDENT WAS STEADILY DETERIORATING. HE
SAID HE AND THE PRIME MINISTER HAVE CONSULTED WITH VIETNAMESE
AND AMERICAN PHYSICIANS AND FOUND UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT THAT
THE VICE PRESIDENT WAS PROBABLY SUFFERING FROM A RAPIDLY
SPREADING LUNG CANCER. HE SAID HE ALSO FOUND UNANIMOUS MEDICAL
AGREEMENT THAT A BIOPSY SHOULD ONLY BE PERFORMED AT THE SAME
PLACE WHERE SURGERY AND/OR RADIATION THERAPY WOULD BE
AVAILABLE. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE AND THE PRIME MINISTER
SUBSEQUENTLY HAD A LONG TALK WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT WHO HAD
HAD THE ENTIRE SITUATION PRESENTED TO HIM WITH COMPLETE FRANK-
NESS. THE VICE PRESIDENT HAD SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT
ARRANGEMENT BE MADE TO HAVE THE EXAMINATION AND SUBSEQUENT
SURGERY OR TREATMENT DONE AT WALTER REED.

2. PRESIDENT THIEU HOPED VERY MUCH THAT PRESIDET NIXON
WOULD AUTHORIZE THIS TO BE DONE. I SAID I WOULD IMMEDIATELY
REPORT HIS REQUEST TO THE PRESIDENT AND WOULD ADVISE HIM AS SOON
AS I HAD A REPLY.

3. I SUBSEQUENTLY WENT OVER THE CASE WITH OUR EMBASSY PHYSICIAN
WHO HAD BEEN ONE OF THE PHYSICIANS WITH WHOM THE PRESIDENT AND
SECRET

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THE PRIME MINISTER HAD TALKED. HE COMPLETELY CONFIRMED WHAT
THE PRESIDENT HAD TOLD ME AND SAID THAT DUE TO THE AGE OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT, 72, AND THE COMPLICATIONS OF HYPERTENSION AND
DIABETES, A MEDICAL EVACUATION PLANE SHOULD BE USED. HE FURTHER

SAID THE VICE PRESIDENT, HIS SON AND HIS PHYSICIAN WOULD BE READY
TO DEPART THIS WEEKEND.

4. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I THOROUGHLY SUPPORT THE REQUEST
OF PRESIDENT THIEU AND HOPE THAT APPROVAL WILL BE FORTHCOMING
AND THAT A MEDICAL EVACUATION PLANE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE THIS
WEEKEND.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY SOONEST.
MARTIN

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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